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A NEW FLOSCULE.

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[PLATE I., *Fig. 9.*]

For a number of years past it has been my custom to note the peculiarities of such examples of the elegant floscules as I chanced to encounter in my search among the minute forms of pond and stream life. In this way I have become acquainted with at least half the described species*, some of which were not made known until recently announced by Prof. C. T. Hudson as occurring in Britain. The identification of so many of the British floscules in our waters is interesting, as it shows that they are widely distributed; the group is certainly well represented in the waters about my home, and, it appears, by at least one species differing from those so well known in Europe.

While searching for *Stephanoceros Eichhornii*, for the purpose of exhibition at our annual *soirée* Thursday evening, I came upon a form resembling that beautiful creature, but one differing from it so characteristically that I have no hesitation in pronouncing it an undescribed species, and I call it *Floscularia Millsii*, *n. s.* Whilst its elongate form and very long, attenuate lobes without knobs, as well as its attitudes and motions, closely ally it to *Stephanoceros*, yet its structure, so far as determined, places it in *Floscularia* more harmoniously than in *Stephanoceros*, so I have provisionally referred it to the former genus; however, if the young rotifer should prove to have a single eye-spot instead of two it might with equal propriety be referred to the latter, except that, as at present limited, the arrangement of the cilia on the arms does not accord with that genus, for they are not in "whorls of vibratile cilia," but it seems to me that this is a specific rather than a generic character. Subsequent examination may readily change its generic reference to *Stephanoceros;* if so, it will be the second species of the genus. The first species, *Eichhornii*, is also abundant in our ponds and streams.

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* This was written before the August number of the Jour. of the Roy. Mic. Soc. came to hand, in which Prof. Hudson describes four additional species of *Floscularia*.

I have proposed the specific name in honor of my friend, Henry Mills, with whom I am intimately associated as a "tramp"; *i. e.*, I am to him, in the business for which we tramp, a sort of *Fidus Achates.* In fact, this creature was taken from Black Creek, Ontario, where we were together fishing for sponges and other bits of loveliness usually found associated. Thus far the Floscule has been found only in that stream, and in all cases attached to *Utricularia vulgaris*, upon which tube-dwelling Infusoria and Rotatoria were abundant, among which I will stop to mention two, *Stichotricha remex* and *Floscularia campanulata*, both of which were in greater profusion than I had before met with them.

The delicate, sub-cylindrical, gelatinous sheaths of *F. Millsii* are frequently found occupying the fork made by branch or leaf; however, they are often found without this protection; the animal is usually solitary, but sometimes occurs in small groups of three or more. The peduncle is short, as in most floscules; the posterior, attenuate, muscular part is relatively long and terminates rather abruptly in the short, broadly ovate body which is usually brown below the jaws on account of inclosed food; above the grinding organs are usually lodged large, green Algæ, or green infusorians, whose protecting sheaths are apparently too large and firm to allow crushing in the mill. The capacious, hyaline mouth-funnel is but little broader at its free edge than below; the free border is set a very little obliquely. The rim of this bowl bears five extremely long, flexible, tentacle-like trochal-lobes, which are without the least knob-like enlargement at their extremities. These organs are very similar to those of *S. Eichhornii*, except in the character and distribution of the cilia; in fact, they are quite suggestive of the long, flexible tentacles of a polyzoon. The cilia on the lobes are distributed throughout the entire length, fine, longer toward the extremities, those at the ends are nearly half as long as the lobes; they are arranged on the lateral borders of the tentacles and stand straight out, almost reaching those of the adjacent lobes. When the long lobes are being pushed out of the sheath they are held close together in a bundle; the very long cilia are then shaken out, as it appears, and a shimmer runs over them very much like that seen on the long arms of *F. coronetta* or *F. corunta* when they are unfolded.

The dimensions of a large individual were measured with results as follows: Length from foot disc to body $\frac{1}{45}$ of an inch, length of body $\frac{1}{110}$, length of lobes $\frac{1}{45}$, the total height to top of extended lobes $\frac{1}{19}$ of an inch. Others were measured whose total height did not exceed $\frac{1}{30}$ of an inch.

It is not a sensitive species and very readily displays its ciliary crown when under observation; the usual procession of Infusoria may be seen steadily moving down its throat, nor does it reject Algæ that may be drawn into the vortex.

One, two and sometimes three eggs may be seen in the tube at a time. I have not yet had an opportunity to observe them until they are hatched. This I very much regret, for it would undoubtedly shed light upon its generic affinities and determine whether it is a *Floscularia* or a *Stephanoceros.*

PLATE II.

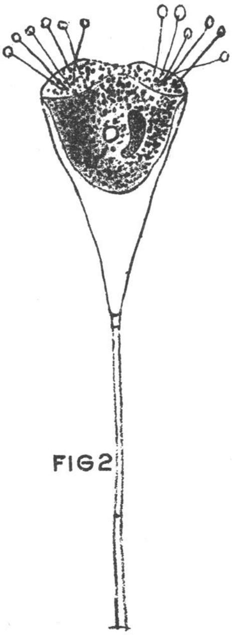


FIG2

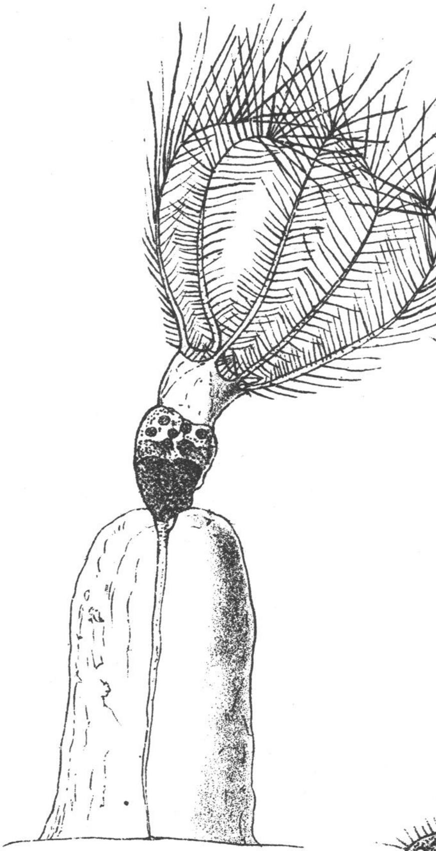


FIG 9

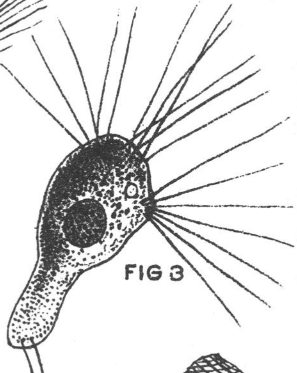


FIG 3

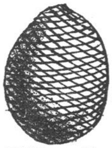
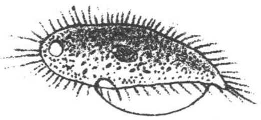


FIG 8



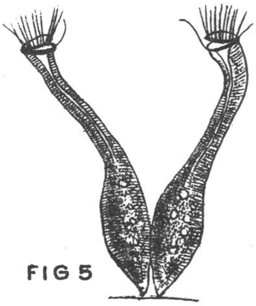


FIG 5

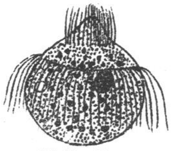


FIG 6

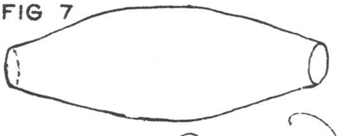


FIG 7

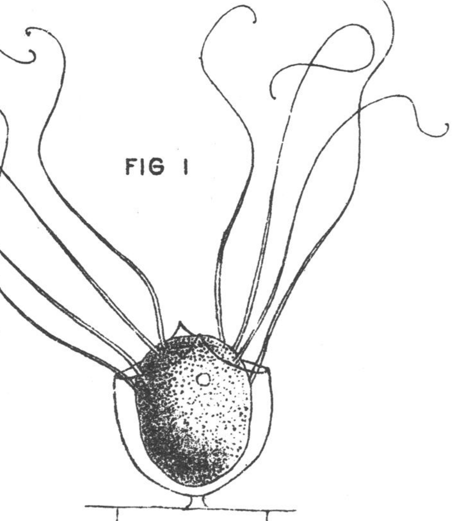


FIG 1

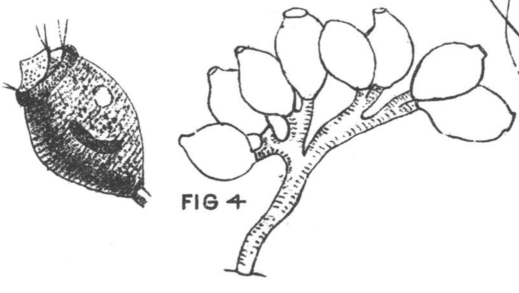


FIG 4

ERRATUM.—For Plate I., fig. 9, read Plate II., fig. 9.

PLATE VI., to face page 138, illustrating Dr. Taylor's paper will be furnished to members as soon as procured by the Publication Committee.